

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Community and Conflict

GRADE LEVEL/S: 1-2, 3-5

TIME NEEDED: 2-3 sessions

TEACHER: Nicole Marrero

LESSON TITLE:

CHILDREN GRIEVE TOO...STRATEGIES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH GRIEF

Common Core Standards

- RI 6** Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- SL 6** Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What is grief?
- What are some instances when we might experience grief?
- What are some strategies to help deal with grief?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will identify strategies for coping in difficult situations.
- Students will create a memory box, collage or book that will serve as an ongoing reminder of an item, person or animal they have lost.

Key Terms

Grief/Grieve, Loss, Memory book, Memory box, Memory collage

Materials

- Chart paper & markers
- Goldman, Linda. Children Also Grieve. (Jessica Kingsley, 2005)
- Empty shoeboxes (Enough for class)
- Magazines
- New notebooks (Enough for class)
- Pictures/artifacts brought in by students
- Arts & Crafts materials – stickers, crayons, glue, scissors, etc.

**Background
for lesson**
(if necessary)

This is a lesson that will come as the result of other conversations, lessons or circumstances that have addressed grief or loss, such as conversations around the anniversary of 9/11. During the group work, students will create a memory box, book or collage—they will decide which they want to create. You may want to begin collecting materials early on and asking for donations from parents and friends, so that when you embark on this project, you have the required materials. Also, during this first introduction, you will not be reading the entire book. You will stop at selected points (detailed in lesson) to address the overall concept of grief. Since this book is quite informative and child-friendly, you may choose to read the rest at a later time.

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. Begin by asking students questions such as: *What happens when we lose someone or something special to us?* and *What are some things you do to help you feel better?* Teacher may wish to chart some of the responses.
2. Tell students that they will be exploring different ways for dealing with sadness and then each will create a memory item for someone/something we've lost in our lives to help us remember them forever.
3. Begin to read aloud Children Also Grieve. Stop at the following pages for quick discussions:
 - After reading pages 9–16, discuss ways in which people might die (page 17).
 - Read 18–19 and define 'grief' again briefly with the class.
 - Read 20–23 and discuss suggestions on dealing with anger.
 - Read page 46 and identify concrete strategies for dealing with grief.
 - Skip back to page 43 for an outline and discussion of a Memory Book, Collage or Box. Discuss the characteristics and role of each.
4. Allow students to decide on which memory item they would like to complete. Have materials prepared in advance.
5. Place students into groups to complete memory item of their choice. *What will you choose to remember? A person? An animal? An event?*
6. Students present their memory item to the class either through presentations or a gallery walk where common items are grouped together.
7. Close the lesson by reinforcing that grieving is a natural and normal part of life. Creating a memory item like the ones created is a healthy way to deal with grief. We also get to create something special for someone we've lost.

Evidence of Understanding

Create a rubric in advance for the students about what is expected for the memory item. As an assessment, you can 'grade' the memory item based on the rubric.

Extension Activities

- Display the memory items in the classroom and invite parents/loved ones to view the items. Have students do short presentations about their items for their families. This is a great way to help an entire family dealing with grief.
- For students that still need more support, you may want to suggest After you lose Someone You Love by Amy, Allie & David Dennison—a book that has advice and insight from the diaries of three kids who've experienced death or other read aloud of choice (i.e. Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs by Tomie dePaola; The 10th Good Thing about Barney by Judith Viorst).
- For further resources, visit the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at www.cincinnatichildrens.org/school-crisis or the National Association for School Psychologists at www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety.